

HONORING ROBERT MECHLING

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 27, 2012*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, throughout our history, at times appointed, this country has come face-to-face with evil. It's gone by different names, but it is always recognizable by its desire to blot out the light of freedom. Time and time again, America has seen her

sons and daughters respond to that threat with the might, devotion, and strength of military service. We've seen the freedom defended within our boundaries, but more than this, we've come to be known the world-over as defenders of freedom's cause at home and abroad.

One such son, Robert Mechling, took to the call of freedom and served as captain in the 8th Army Air Force in World War II. His dedication to the mission at hand and the promise of liberty for those bound by tyranny's grasp has earned him deserved admiration and dis-

tingtion. For his heroic deeds which were decisive in the liberation of France, especially his participation in the Normandy landings, Mechling will receive the National Order of the Legion of Honor.

I rise today to honor Robert Mechling as he receives the highest honor given by the President of the Republic of France and thank him for his courage. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mechling and all who served in WWII for their constant vigilance against the foe.